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THE PRESSING QUESTIONS OF HAWAII.

Secretary Straus will hear the main question in Hawaii described by one party as labor and by the other as land. Both questions are so important, that they belong side by side; they are inter-related, and the proper settlement of the one can not cure the ills of Hawaii without the proper settlement of the other.

Apparently, the need of labor in the cane fields is being fairly well met. There are thousands of laborers here, more are coming from Japan, and some are being brought from Europe. Doubtless, with the full protection on the mainland frontiers from contraband Japanese which is being organized, Hawaii's Asiatic labor supply will increase rather than diminish. It is of first importance that nothing shall happen to cut off the European labor supply and that Congress shall amend the immigration law in our behalf.

It is pilikia with problem number two, the land question. Little has yet been officially done to carry out the policy of President Roosevelt for the development of Hawaii in the "traditional American way;" for getting farmers on the land not needed for sugar, and to save Hawaii from the fate described in the President's message to Congress—a Territory in which "a governing class of rich planters shall exist by means of coolie labor." The subject is one which many approach with dread. This is a conservative place and old-timers naturally cling to the old order. Would the farmer, if he came, draw on the planters' labor supply? If so, he must be kept out. Would he create a demand for land so as to keep plantations from staying on the government domain at a nominal price? If so, away with him. Two or three years ago the Hunker opposition here expressed itself in doubts that anything salable—always excepting sugar—could be grown on this soil; but since then the enormous development of the pineapple industry and the splendid prospects of rubber, sisal and tobacco, have made crops for the farmer and driven the opposition back to other arguments. The finishing blow to the one-crop idea was given by the planter who testified before the tax commission not long ago that pineapple land stood at a greater valuation than sugar land.

The simple, everyday truth of the situation is that sugar uses but 200,000 acres of land out of a total of about 4,250,000 acres, enough of which latter is arable to support as many farmers as there are planters and field hands combined; that the utilization of the surplus land by farmers would treble the export returns of Hawaii as well as steady the electorate and give deep rootage to American ideas; that in such event Hawaii would keep its prosperity even if, by the admission of Cuba to the Union and the passage of a Philippine free trade bill, sugar should cease to yield a fair profit to local growers; that American farmers, holding the land, would simplify the question of defense and create taxable values by means of which there would be more schools, better roads, an increased population in towns, more villages, a greater commerce and vastly more money in circulation.

That, in brief, is the argument for the American farmer in Hawaii. There is land in plenty, there is a growing demand for its diversified crops, the farmer is needed to save the Territory to American ideas. He means future safety and prosperity. Without him the land must become entirely feudal and un-American.

Secretary Straus will hear much to the contrary, but he will not be deceived by it. He will see that there is a way to get over every obstacle so far named and that, the President is right in saying that Hawaii can be reclaimed and made typically as well as usefully American. Perhaps some help from Congress may be needed, but there is nothing in the way that can not be overcome.

FARMING AND LAND AREAS.

If we get the thought of C. W. Brash, whose letter on Farming is printed elsewhere, he has no faith in small tract agriculture here and thinks the only solution of the problem to be the free allotment of farms in quarter-sections of 160 acres. This plan, as we shall explain to Mr. Brash, was discussed in Congress and rejected on what seemed good grounds, namely, that there is not enough arable land here to allow the individual farmer so large an area as 160 acres; that he does not need so much for his support and profit; and that, in a broad, general view, it would be practicable here where there is no winter and where something better than mainland staples may be raised, to support a vastly larger population on the land than the mainland plan of subdivision would permit. It is demonstrable that forty acres in pineapples will yield more profit than 160 acres in anything on the mainland; so why give four times that acreage to any one man and cut off the chance of getting four men?

Congress eliminated the gift or pre-emption scheme altogether and, as we believe, did so wisely. Such a measure would have brought here the speculative farmer; the man who would simply take land to sell, after he had proved up, to great corporate estates. If that has not usually been the case elsewhere, it is because the great estates are not on hand to buy. Here they are always ready, the more so because of the 1000-acre clause in the Organic Act. And the temptation to sell at a good price, land that had cost nothing, would be too great for the average pre-emptor.

Of course, if Mr. Brash refers to the garden-patch scheme used as a sop to get European immigrants, we quite agree with his view that nothing valuable to agriculture can come. An acre or so affords merely door-yard and hen room; and even an acre can't be cared for by men who have toiled all day in the sugar cane. There must be from twenty to forty acres according to the crop raised and a farmer with no other business to attend to them.

Now, is our rule likely to keep farmers from coming to Hawaii? It has not worked that way in Southern California. The greatest development there came long after government land had withdrawn itself to the high hills and the dry mesas. Farmers came to Southern California and are coming, from the East and from Europe, to buy at a fair price—a higher, average price, it may be said, than is paid for land here under the auction system. We do not doubt that, whenever the Territory gets ready to put large tracts of susceptible land on the market, the same class of settlers will take it up.

And that is the class Hawaii wants. The Advertiser knows of no well-informed sentiment in favor of opening the country to the long haired, unshaven, "one-gallus" farmer, with a dog, a large family and seventy dollars in cash. America is full of well-to-do farming people, who drive good horses, have a piano in the house for the girls, pay for a pew in church and give their children a sound education. Tens of thousands of such farmers are the basis of the agricultural prosperity of the Pacific slope; and the more of them Hawaii can put on its pineapple, sisal, tobacco and rubber lands, the better for the Territory and all its interests.

Senator Foraker's anti-Taft letter did not stem the Ohio tide and the big Secretary of War got the indorsement of the Republican State Committee. The next fight will be to get a convention endorsement; but with the influence of the President exerted for Taft, it is fairly certain that Foraker will be beaten all along the line and that Taft will have the solid vote of Ohio. Foraker is popular at home, as Roscoe Conkling used to be, but the Republicanism of Ohio, like that of New York, is too deeply and sincerely felt to enable a leader who is fighting a Republican national administration to get much of a following.

THE MELON FLY.

It is to be regretted that the committee in charge of the Planters' Experiment Station could not see its way clear to grant the request of the Board of Agriculture and Forestry to give Entomologist Muir a leave of absence, in order that he might go to India or China, on behalf of the Board, to seek the natural enemies of the melon fly. Mr. Muir is in the Far East now, and has been for some time, searching for insects beneficial to sugar cane growing. It was the thought of the Board of Agriculture that while he was there, not far from either India or China, if he could be given a leave of absence by the planters, he could go to the original home of the melon fly, secure its parasites and natural enemies, and send them here at comparatively small expense to the Territory, and at a small loss of time but at no expense to the planters.

It is not so many years ago since muskmelons were abundant and cheap in Hawaii, and of a quality excelling that of even the famous Rocky Ford melon. Watermelons were raised with no difficulty. They were plenty, they were cheap, and they were good. They are good now, but no longer cheap. The American cucumber, crisper and superior in every way to the Chinese variety, which is the sole representative of the species that can now be brought to maturity, could be raised in any garden. The introduction of the melon fly without its natural enemies, put an end to this. Muskmelons can no longer be grown, no matter with what care they are attended. Watermelons are raised under difficulties because of the melon fly, which makes watermelon a luxury. And the housekeeper is forced to the necessity of using the Chinese cucumber, because it alone, of cucumbers, can be raised.

The whole experience of Hawaii indicates that the introduction of the natural enemies of the melon fly, the enemies that render it innocuous as a pest in its native home, India, would very quickly change conditions for the better. The community would very soon be benefited by an abundant and cheap yield of one of the wholesomest elements of food supply, the melon element. Economically, the Territory would be benefited by not having to import, as it now does, large quantities of some of these varieties.

The question is, ought not the Board of Agriculture itself, since it can not get a man who is already nearly to India, send a man from here? It has competent entomologists in its employ. There seems to be no expense too great to incur when the question is the protection of the sugar crop. Is it not worth while to devote some thought and some effort to the protection of other products—products that minister to the health and gratification of the entire community, and which may be made economically important?

BUNKO IN DIPLOMACY.

It appears from Japanese files that the Korean deputation to The Hague was the scheme of a crafty American named Hurlburt who got the confidence of the hermit Emperor. Hurlburt went to Seoul a few years ago and started a paper called The Korean Review. This paper was unfriendly to the Japanese and by that token, gained the favor of the Korean sovereign. Then the publisher was able, for a consideration, to get mining concessions and other good things for his friends; and he managed, in a purely incidental way, to tap the Korean treasury on his own account.

Hurlburt's final touch was for 20,000 yen "to restore Korean independence." He pointed out to the avid Emperor that The Hague Conference was a sort of court in equity where the grievances of nations were redressed, thus avoiding war. What could be easier, he said, than for some responsible man, used to European ways, to go to The Hague, explain things and get a judgment restoring independence to the Korean people. The Emperor was delighted. Would Mr. Hurlburt oblige? Mr. Hurlburt would consider it and he did. He would go, providing he were given 20,000 yen for expenses. Should he take some Koreans with him? Hurlburt thought that would be unnecessary—and expensive. Instead he would pick up some who were stranded in Europe and would come cheap.

This choice American grafter, handsomely endowed with Korean gold, got away, went to Paris, drummed up two or three Korean waifs, dropped in with them at The Hague and was snubbed by everybody there. Then he went back to Paris and announced that all was lost. He would remain in Paris, however, to recuperate his health and he wished conveyed, to the Emperor and the Minister of Finance, the assurance of his distinguished consideration.

Unhappily, by the time Mr. Hurlburt's polite message reached the palace at Seoul, the Emperor and his Minister of Finance were minus their jobs. The embassy to The Hague had mixed things badly. It had denied the suzerain power of Japan and insulted the noble Nipponese, and had done so with the open connivance of the Korean sovereign. And now a Japanese pro-consul, backed by several thousand veteran troops, administers Korea and the end of the dream of independence has come.

Now on late afternoons, no doubt, Monsieur Hurlburt, a rich American in Paris, exquisitely dressed, may be observed in an open-air cafe gazing into the green shimmer of absinthe and figuring out the next move in the game of livelihood.

FOR CLEAN BARBER SHOPS.

The regulation of barber shops, as directed under the law by the Board of Health, may be a measure aimed at the Asiatic places but it is none the less commendable on that account. There are few if any barber shops here that take the trouble to keep clean in the way laid down by the letter of the law. For instance, an uncleaned lather brush is used over and over again; likewise unsterilized brushes and razors; while nobody thinks of cleansing the powder puff or the alum block. Hereafter sterilization will be the rule, neither puff nor sponge may be used at all, and alum, where applied to cuts, must be in pulverized or liquid form only.

A law of this sort is needed in Hawaii more perhaps, than in any other part of the United States, because of the nature of the population. The great bulk of our people come from the lower classes of many nations, the transmittable skin and blood diseases of which range from impetigo contagioso to much graver maladies. It can not be shown how much damage the barber shops, particularly the Asiatic ones, are doing, but it is fair to infer that for a great deal of the communicable sickness, of a certain sort, they are responsible.

The new law, as we say, is excellent, but what of its enforcement? Is it to become nugatory like the law against promiscuous spitting? Much will depend upon the ability of the Board of Health to provide inspectors and the willingness of the patrons of barber shops to enter complaints when they know the law to have been violated.

FEDERAL IMPROVEMENTS.

The statement that Pearl Harbor is to be fortified first means, if true, that the government intends soon to build a navy yard there. Otherwise there would be no sense in mounting heavy guns at the harbor, as large vessels, in the present condition of the channel, could not get into the place if they tried. Just as it stands, Pearl Harbor is not worth fortifying, as landing forces of an enemy could be kept out of it or destroyed when once in it, by field artillery alone.

But if a navy yard is to be built, that is another matter; and if the construction of forts is to be rushed, we may infer that the building of arsenals and a drydock will go on at the same time.

Few people realize what the establishment of a navy yard at Pearl Harbor would mean in the development of this island. Given an average of 1200 employes, and a village of from six to eight thousand people, mostly consumers, would rise near-by, a village tributary to Honolulu and doubtless connected with it by electric trackage. It would be another Vallejo. Every line of business from dry goods to agriculture, would feel the good effect of the new demand.

There will be mighty little complaint among business men here if a navy yard, half a dozen well-garrisoned forts and an enlarged military post can be had to contribute to their welfare.

JAPANESE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

As Great Britain has, through the Dominion authority, the right to disallow any act of the British Columbian legislature which it may deem inimical to the welfare of the empire, the labor union row in Victoria and Vancouver over the admission of Jaapanese coolies, is not likely to make a serious international issue.

British Columbia politicians may succeed in passing some kind of an exclusion law to save their own faces, but Great Britain, as an ally of Japan, will not permit its enforcement. It will simply drop a word at Ottawa and the latter will do the rest.

Very likely the outcome will be that Japan, to save embarrassment to her ally, will put the clamps on the emigration which now reaches British Columbia. That would be the simplest method of avoiding friction between friends.

AMERICA'S FOREIGN COMMERCE.

The most striking characteristic of the foreign commerce of the United States in the fiscal year just ended is the large increase in imports. The value of merchandise brought into the United States from foreign countries during the year ending June 30, 1907, was $1,434,000,000, an increase of more than $200,000,000 over the immediately preceding year and more than double the total for the fiscal year 1898 or 1899. Exports, which amounted to $1,881,000,000, show and increase of $137,000,000 over the immediately preceding year and an increase of but 53 per cent over the figures of 1899.

This increase of more than 100 per cent in imports and of but about 50 per cent in exports in the last eight years lends interest to some comparative figures prepared by the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor showing the principal articles and groups of articles in which the growth has occurred. Taking up the imports, which have increased from $697,000,000 in 1899 to $1,434,000,000 in 1907, the Bureau's figures show that crude materials for use in manufacturing have increased from a little more than $200,000,000, dollars value in 1899 to nearly $500,000,000 in 1907, the figures for eleven months of 1907 being $444,000,000, while the figures for June, not yet available in detail, will, if they approximate those of May, bring the total for the year to fully $485,000,000. During the same period imports of manufactures for further use in manufacturing have increased from $92,000,000 in 1899 to about $275,000,000 in 1907; manufactures ready for consumption, from $170,000,000 to approximately $365,000,000; foodstuffs in a crude condition, from a little less than $100,000,000 to $150,000,000; and foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured, from $123,000,000 in 1899 to $160,000,000 in 1907. During the eight years under consideration imports of crude materials for use in manufacturing have increased approximately 130 per cent; manufactures for further use in manufacturing, about 200 per cent; manufactures ready for consumption, about 115 per cent; foodstuffs in a crude condition, about 50 per cent; and foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured, about 30 per cent, all of these statements being based upon estimates for the details of June imports in the fiscal year 1907. Crude materials for use in manufacturing, which in 1899 formed 30 per cent of the total imports, formed in 1907 about 34 per cent; manufactures for further use in manufacturing, which in 1899 formed 13 per cent of the total, formed in 1907 19 per cent; manufactures ready for consumption, which in 1899 formed 24 per cent, formed about 25 per cent of the total in 1907; and foodstuffs which in 1899 formed 32 per cent of the total imports, formed 21 per cent of the total in 1907.

Turning to the exports, the total value in 1907 is given at $1,881,000,000, against $1,227,000,000 in 1899, an increase of 53 per cent, these figures including the foreign merchandise reexported, which amounts, however, to less than 2 per cent of the total. Of the domestic merchandise exported, manufactures ready for consumption have increased from $263,000,000 in 1899 to about $470,000,000 in 1907; manufactures for further use in manufacturing, from $118,000,000 to about $255,000,000; crude materials for use in manufacturing, from $278,000,000 to approximately $600,000,000; and foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured, from $305,000,000 to approximately $345,000,000; while foodstuffs in a crude condition have fallen from $233,000,000 in 1899 to about $170,000,000 in 1907. Thus, during the eight years from 1899 to 1907, exports of manufactures ready for consumption have increased about 78 per cent; manufactures for further use in manufacturing, about 116 per cent; crude materials for use in manufacturing, 116 per cent; and foodstuffs partly or wholly prepared, about 13 per cent; while foodstuffs in a crude condition have decreased about 27 per cent. Manufactures ready for consumption in 1899 formed 22 per cent of the total domestic exports and in 1907, 25 per cent; manufactures for further use in manufacturing in 1899 formed 10 per cent of the total and in 1907 about 14 per cent; crude materials for use in manufacturing formed in 1899, 23 per cent and in 1907 about 33 per cent of the total; foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured formed in 1899, 25 per cent of the total and in 1907, 18 per cent; and foodstuffs in a crude condition in 1899 formed 10 per cent and in 1907 about 9 per cent of the total domestic exports.

The principal increases during the last eight years are, on the import side, pig tin, from $12,000,000 value in 1899 to $38,000,000 in 1907; raw silk, $32,000,000 to $72,000,000; india rubber, from $32,000,000 to $60,000,000; raw wool, from $8,000,000 to $43,000,000; copper, including ore, from $7,000,000 to $49,000,000; hides and skins, from $42,000,000 to $82,000,000; unmanufactured fibers, from $20,000,000 to $43,000,000; while in manufactures those of cotton show a growth from $32,000,000 in 1899 to $75,000,000 in 1907; of fibers, from $25,000,000 to $67,000,000; of iron and steel, from $12,000,000 to $42,000,000; those of silk, from $25,000,000 to $39,000,000; and of wool, from $14,000,000 to $22,000,000. On the export side the principal increases occur in iron and steel manufactures, from $94,000,000 in 1899 to $179,000,000 in 1907; leather and manufactures thereof, from $23,000,000 to $45,000,000; copper, exclusive of ore, from $36,000,000 to $92,000,000; mineral oil, from $56,000,000 to $83,000,000; raw cotton, from $210,000,000 to $489,000,000; and meat and dairy products, from $176,000,000 to $202,000,000; while breadstuffs show a fall from $274,000,000 in 1899 to $187,000,000 in 1907, all of these figures for 1907 being based upon an estimate for the month of June.

The choice of San Diego as a naval station was long ago made probable by the isthmian canal enterprise. As the nearest western port of the United States to Panama, San Diego has advantages, from a naval standpoint, which can not be overlooked. Happily there is now plenty of land room for a navy plant, facing the sea on the one side and the channel of the bay on the other. The place is readily defensible, being commanded by Point Loma on the north and by Coronado Heights on the south and the harbor has accommodation for a large fleet. With five naval stations in the Pacific, Pearl Harbor, Bremerton, San Diego, Honolulu and Subig Bay, the United States will be in good shape to protect its interests here,—at least it will be as soon as these places have been properly fortified.

The grafters who pose as professional Americans here are already showing signs of anxiety over the course to be taken by Governor Frear. We don't wonder. It has not been the habit of Washington to give Hawaii governors of the sort that grafters admire and Judge Frear is the kind of a man to make the pastures very scant for them. More power to him.

Mr. and Mrs. Longworth are welcome here for their own sakes as well as in respect to the President. They have already been here and are personally known and liked. We do not doubt that they will find Hawaii as pleasant as they anticipated and that they will come again sometime and bring father.

The militia was out to greet the Governor but for some reason the Katzenjammer band did not play Herr Berger's celebrated anthem, "Carter has came, Carter has came."

Speaking of the friendship of the administration for Hawaii, Straus shows the direction of the current.

ALEWA LOT OWNERS MEET WEDNESDAY

A meeting will be held at the makai pavilion of the Young Hotel on Wednesday night at 7:30 of the local people who bought lots on Alewa Heights at the auction sale on Monday. The object will be to form a club which will look after the interests in that section and will bring about the building of roads as soon as possible. There has been $2400 paid in already on the lots that were purchased. Of this sum, $1600 must be paid over to obtain the rights of way for the road through the Ballou and Andrews property. This will leave only $800 available for building roads at present.

It is proposed to ask those who are able, to pay the second installment of twenty per cent. immediately. This will amount to $2400 which will be more than enough to build the road from Wylie street up to the top of the hill. The following request is being issued to the holders of the Alewa lots:

"It has been proposed to organize a club to advance the interests of Alewa Heights. A meeting will be held at the makai pavilion of the Young Hotel at 7:30 Wednesday evening next, for this purpose. Please make a special effort to be present as officers will be elected and matters of importance to all purchasers of Alewa lots will be discussed."

FREETH SURFING AT VENICE

George Freeth is giving surf riding exhibitions at Venice, a summer resort in Southern California, and is making a success of his work. According to a letter received on the last mail by the Promotion Committee from their agent in Los Angeles. The letter states that Freeth and Kenneth Winter tried surf-riding at Long Beach, but found the rollers there unsatisfactory, finally making a contract with Manager Hanna, of Venice. There, exhibitions are given by Freeth every afternoon, drawing immense crowds along the beach and on the piers to watch his performance.

Letters from C. Hedemann of the Honolulu Iron Works from Germany indicate that his health is much improved.